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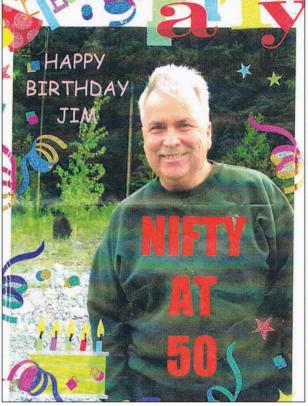
Saturday, April 17, 2010

THE MORNING TENSOR SOURCE for Local News in English

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111 - Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518 - E-mail: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

For Jim Bell, fifty is nifty!







Jim and Kathy

Jim Bell is Nifty and Fifty

For 16 years, ever since they honeymooned on Aruba, Jim and Cathy Bell of Toronto have been returning to the island twice a year to relax and unwind. "We had been all over the Caribbean before Aruba," explained Cathy, "but after our first trip here we haven't gone anywhere else - why bother?"

Usually spending a week in April and one in October on the island, always at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Palm Beach, Jim and Cathy found that this year their April vacation would also be the first time they had ever been on Aruba for Jim's birthday; a

landmark occasion at that, as he hit the big 5-0.

Kathy was determined to make it memorable, for which she recruited six of their very good friends to join them for the celebration; they were only too happy to cooperate! John and Cindy Fehr and Bruce and Karen Worrall had vacationed with the Bells on Aruba previously, but Francine and Doug Bowes are fitting in very well during their first stay on the island.

Jim's birthday was on Thursday, April 15, but the celebration started from the moment they arrived the Sunday before. Flyers were secretly distributed around the resort informing every guest and employee that "Fifty is Nifty," and Jim soon found he was a celebrity at the Holiday Inn, with complete strangers recognizing him and congratulating him on his landmark birthday. The morning of the big day, Jim came out to sit under a palapa that he found festooned with balloons and decorations, prompting beach walkers to come over and also offer salutations.

"It has just been wonderful," confirmed Jim and Cathy, "all the warm wishes from hotel guests and employees, and the way other vacationers on the beach have offered their sincere congratulations; this is exactly why we come to Aruba every year. It has all made the day very special."

Their evening party at the Seabreeze Restaurant in the Holiday Inn started with Happy Hour under the Gazebo, where Jim was presented with his gag gift of an inflatable walker. The entire group, clad in tee shirts made by Cathy de-

The birthday and his walker



claring they were "A friend of Jim" invited anyone to join them for a drink, with Canada hats for their favorite friends and bartenders.

Some might be a little embarrassed by hundreds of people finding out they hit half a century, but Jim reveled in his week of celebrity. Their only regret was that Cathy's parents, Barb and Bill, couldn't join them as long trips are just

too taxing for them.

"Our first five years coming to Aruba they always vacationed with us and just loved it here," expressed Cathy, "the employees still ask us about them after all this time and send their regards. We think we are going to have to start coming in February too, so I can celebrate my birthday on Aruba!"

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Flight disruptions in Europe get even worse

LONDON, England (AP)) -Thick drifts of volcanic ash blanketed parts of rural Iceland yesterday as a vast, invisible plume of grit drifted over Europe, emptying the skies of planes and sending hundreds of thousands in search of hotel rooms, train tickets or rental

Polish officials worried that the ash cloud could threaten the arrival of world leaders for Sunday's state funeral for President Lech Kaczynski and his wife Maria in the southern city of Krakow.

So far, President Barack Obama, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are among those coming and no one has canceled. Kaczynski's family insisted yesterday they wanted the funeral to go forward as planned but there was no denying the ash cloud was moving south and east.

The air traffic agency Eurocontrol said almost two-thirds of Europe's flights were canceled today, as air space remained largely closed in Britain and across large chunks of north and central Europe.

"The skies are totally empty over northern Europe," said Brian Flynn, deputy head of Eurocontrol, adding "there will be some significant disruption of European air traffic tomor-

Southern Iceland's Eviafiallajokull glacier began erupting for the second time in a month on Wednesday, sending ash several miles (kilometers) into the air. Winds pushed the plume south and east across Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia and into the heart of Europe.

Officials said it was still spewing magma and although the eruption could abate in the coming days, ash would continue drifting into the skies of

Gray ash settled in drifts near the glacier, swirling in the air and turning day into night. Authorities told people in the area with respiratory problems to stay indoors, and advised everyone to wear masks and protective goggles outside.

Obama extends health care rights to gay partners

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a move hailed as a step toward fairness for same-sex couples, President Barack Obama is ordering that nearly all hospitals allow patients to say who has visitation rights and who can help make medical decisions, including gay and lesbian part-

The White House on Thursday released a statement by Obama instructing his Health and Human Services secretary to draft rules requiring hospitals that receive Medicare and Medicaid payments to grant all patients the right to designate people who can visit and consult with them at crucial moThe designated visitors

ments.

should have the same rights that immediate family members now enjoy, Obama's instructions said. It said Medicare-Medicaid hospitals, which include most of the nation's facilities, may not deny visitation and consultation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

The move was called a major step toward fairness for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

The new rules, Obama said, should "guarantee that all patients' advance directives, such as durable powers of attorney and health care proxies, are respected," and that patients' designees be able to "make informed decisions regarding patients' care."

The Human Rights Campaign, which backs gay rights, called Obama's decision an "important action" that was inspired in part by a New York Times article about a lesbian couple in Miami. They were kept apart while one lay dying in a hospital despite having an "advanced health care directive" asking for full visitation rights for each other.

Gloria Estefan seeks Obama help for **Cuba dissidents**

MIAMI, Florida (AP) Cuban-American pop star Gloria Estefan asked President Barack Obama to work for the freedom of jailed dissidents in Cuba during a political fundraising event that seemed certain to anger the island's communist rulers.

Estefan and her musical entrepreneur husband Emilio Estefan hosted a cocktail reception at their Miami home for Obama on Thursday evening, the first of two Democratic Party fundraisers he attended during a visit to Florida.

During the reception, Obama was given a letter from the mother of Cuban dissident Orlando Zapata Tamayo, who died on February 23 after an 85-day hunger strike to protest prison conditions in Cuba, participants in the event said.

Local media reported Obama was also given a letter from another Cuban dissident hunger striker, Guillermo Farinas, who is seeking the release of ailing political prisoners. The president also viewed photographs of mothers and wives of jailed Cuban dissidents, known as the Ladies in White, being harassed in Havana by Cuban security agents and pro-government militants, local media said.

Zapata's death and the subsequent incidents involving Cuban dissidents in recent weeks have triggered international criticism of Cuban President Raul Castro's government, including a stern denunciation last month from Obama

But Castro, who took over the Cuban presidency from his ailing elder brother Fidel in 2008, has rejected the pressure for political change and for the release of dissidents, saying his government will not submit to "blackmail."

Cuban authorities routinely portray internal opponents as "mercenaries" and "traitors" in the pay of the United States and describe Miami as a center of U.S.-backed "counter-revolution" and hostility against communist rule.

U.S. sees Carribbean as soft target for drug trade

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) -- Defense Secretary Robert Gates says he is concerned that drug trafficking routes will migrate to the Caribbean, which could become an easier target than Mexico or Central America.

Gates met yesterday with leaders from seven Caribbean islands in a bid to re-enenergize U.S. partnerships in the region. The U.S. is spending \$45 million this year to help Caribbean nations improve security and establish social programs aimed at discouraging the drug trade.

St. Kitts and St. Vincent are seen as particularly vulnerable, in part because of government corruption.

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The end of Netherlands Antilles getting closer

The end of the Netherlands Antilles as a unified political entity has come a step closer. The Antilles consist of two groups of islands in the Caribbean Sea, Bonaire and Curação, and Saba, St. Maarten and St. Eustatius. Together they form an autonomous unit within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. On Thursday, the Lower House of the Dutch parliament agreed that the islands of Curação and Sint Maarten would continue as autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom. It is also agreed that Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba would form a kind of local council.

The Socialist party, the conservative VVD, the Freedom Party and Rita Verdonk all voted against the changes. Following the Lower House's decision, the Upper House now must also approve the reforms. The new arrangement is scheduled to take effect on 10 October, 2010.

The Lower House also announced that a Dutch-Antilles



police unit that was formed to combat serious crime would not be dissolved. The cabinet had planned a gradual transfer of the unit's activities to local police forces during, or at the end of the next two years. When the transfer is complete, the unit will be shut down.

Curação and Sint Maarten, a major tourist center, say they contribute a disproportionately large amount to the government. The main islands say they can stand alone economically.

The Dutch colonized the islands, alongside Aruba, in the 17th century. The territory, once called the Dutch West Indies, became self-governing in 1954. Aruba pulled out of the federation in 1986 to become an autonomous Dutch territory. Petroleum refining, tourism and offshore finance are the

mainstays of the economy.

Curaçao, is an oil refining and tourist center. Tourism is low key on nearby Bonaire, where saltpans are home to flamingo breeding grounds.

These three island are located off the Venezuelan coast

More than 800 km to the north, Sint Maarten, which shares an island with the French territory of Saint Martin, has resorts and casinos. Sint Eustatius is uncrowded and peaceful. The smallest island, Saba, has a rugged land-scape. High unemployment has fuelled emigration, mostly to the Netherlands.

The government of Aruba congratulates the people of Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Maar-ten, Saba and St. Eustatius for this historical achievement and wish them all the best in their eneavor to work for the wellbing of every one living on the islands.

Pabien Curaçao, Pabien Bonaire, Pabien St. Maarten, Pabien Saba, and Pabien St. Eustatius.

Pdvsa's refinery on Curacao to resume operations in late April

CARACAS/WILLEMSTAD-Venezuela-operated Isla refinery, which is run by the state-run oil company Petróleos de Venezuela (Pdvsa)on Curacao, would be ready to restart operations in late April after overcoming its power failure, a spokesman of the refinery was quoted as saying by a local newspaper.

The 320,000 bpd Isla refinery halted operations in March due to a failure in the plant run by Curacao Utilities Operating Company (CUOC), which provided electricity, water and steam to the refinery.

The spokesman of the refinery said that the company will about to purchase seven air compressors to repair the CUOC unit and the plant could start operations later this month

Xavier University School of Medicine conducts their 18th White Coat Ceremony



The graduates





Taking the pledge of professional conduct A proud moment when putting on the coat

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation founded The White Coat Ceremony at commencement exercises at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1993, and it has become a symbol for graduating medical students around the world as the reward of their dedication and toil to attain a medical degree.

The students at Xavier University School of Medicine (XUSOM) located in Oranjestad, conducted their 18th White Coat Ceremony in the Palm Beach Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort on Thursday evening, April 15. Joining the seventeen graduating medical students and their proud family, friends and faculty for the special occasion was Aruban Parliamentarian

Lorna Varlack.

Members of the MD4 graduating class were each presented with a personally monogrammed white coat bearing the school's insignia and their diplomas by Dr. Benjamin L. Stalnaker, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. Gil Apacible, Dean of Basic Sciences, who has been with the school since it opened its doors on Aruba in 2005.

President of XUSOM, Mr. Ravishankar Bhooplapur, acted as MC for the evening, welcoming all those that had traveled to Aruba for commencement exercises. Guest Speaker for the occasion was Aruban Dr. Howard van Niel, Plastic Surgeon. He touched on the complexities of reconstructive and hand surgery, his

personal experiences and philosophy in regards to being a doctor, and charged the young graduates to remember they are "always treating a patient-not an x-ray or test results, not a disease or condition, but a patient. Try to understand and think like them. He summed up by pointing out that "Quality only happens when you care to do your best."

Top academic achievement by Brianna Da Silva was recognized as she was named class Salutatorian and Sadra Razi earned the honor of being Valedictorian. Sadra thanked the faculty for making the study of medicine, which she thought would be so difficult, "entertaining and enthralling" with their humor and enthusiasm.

Upon receiving their white coats, Sana Akhter, Henna Bhatti, Puneet Chhina, Brianna Da Silva, Mariam Hakimzadeh, Faraz Javed, Mariea Mariyanayagam, Kunal Mistry, Komal, Maunish and Nilam Patel, Rose Paulose, Navneet Randhawa, Sadra Razi, Milandeep Singh, Khashayar Tavakoli and Todd Wildey stood and recited the Medical Student Pledge of Professional Conduct under the direction of Dr. Stalnaker.



Guest speaker Howard van Niel, Parliament member Lorna Varlack and Ben Stalnaker, VP of academic affairs.



Salutatorian Brianna Da Silva



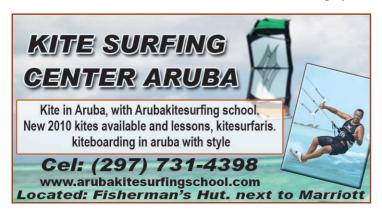
Valedictorian Sadra Razi



Dr. Stalnaker, final graduate Todd Wildey and Dean of Basic Sciences Dr. Gil Apacible

Upon receiving their degrees, the students will continue their education in the U.S. where the school will place them for their clinical rotations once they have passed the

United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Rotations usually take place in New York, Atlanta(which was the original base of UXSOM), Chicago and Baltimore.







General Assembly of ATCA 2010 introduces change in Aruba's branding







Minister of Tourism, Transport and Dr. Ryan Oduber and keynote speaker Dr. Mar- Vice President of Parliament Labor, Otmar Oduber cella Daye

Though Aruba may be "paradise" and "a home away from home" for the tens of thousands of dedicated visitors who vacation on the island each year, for those that are in the business of sustaining Aruba tourism industry, it is a product. During this year's Annual Tourism Conference Aruba, ATCA, which brings major wholesalers and airline executives to Aruba to network and get reacquaint with the island, change and "branding" were principal topics of discussion, particularly during the General Session conducted at the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad this week.

In September of 2009, Aruba held elections which resulted in a complete change of government; the resulting and extensive changes in Aruba's tourism entity under a new Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, were introduced to the their North American tourism partners during the opening session.

Minister Oduber personally welcomed the visiting delegates and outlined restructuring of Aruba's principal tourism entities, the

Aruba Tourism Authority-ATA, and the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association-AHATA, representing the public and private sectors, respectively. Not only will the ATA be privatized as of January 1, 2011, allowing its marketing experts greater autonomy and speed in the decision making-process, but the two agencies will be more closely linked financially.

Minister Oduber informed the gathering the "Aruban Government and AHATA have signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding as it pertains to destination marketing. Starting July 1st, for the first time, the marketing budget of the government and AHATA will become one fund, the Aruba Tourism Marketing Fund." Beginning May 1, Aruba's room tax will be 7.5 %. On July 1, the 2% fee now charged by AHATA will be converted into room tax, for a total of 9.5%. "This room tax will flow into the Aruba Tourism Marketing Fund and will be earmarked to guarantee continuity and stability in the marketing of the destination."

Minister Oduber introduced Paul Croes, Vice President of Parliament, and also now President of a Permanent Tourism Committee, staffed by individuals such as Myrna Jansen, former Director of ATA for a number of years, and Sanju Luidens-Daryanani, formally Director of Marketing for AHATA.

Frits Israël of the ATA, who acted as MC for the opening sessions, also informed delegates that ATA has seen a change of management as part of its restructuring. A steering committee consisting of Mr. Israël, Gina Lopez-Gnecco, former assistant director and head of P/R for ATA, and Astrid Muller. former GM of the Divi Phoenix Resort, will share the leadership of the agency.

Introduced for the first time during the general assembly was a new Aruba logo emblazoned on the tee shirts distributed to delegates and worn by island representatives. A newly refashioned Aruba.com was unveiled, which can be seen online as of tomorrow. The audience was informed that Aruba will return to its branding as "One Happy Island" after the past year's transitional program of "90,000 Friends you haven't met yet." Minister Oduber revealed that the economic up-



Paul Croes

heaval of 2009 and the resulting decrease in spending by consumers has prompted the government to allot a twelve million florin (just under seven million dollars) or 33% augmentation to the ATA budget.

Speakers for the morning session including Jonathan Lange, Senior Vice President and Group Account Director of Deutch, New York, Aruba's advertising agency, Al Brewer of GG Direct; which analyses marketing information from various sources, and from Aruba's P/R agency, MSilver & Associates, VP Dawn Weissman Jenks and Account Supervisor Collen McCormick. Each reported on their work on behalf of the island and their findings from various surveys in the U.S. regarding the status of Aruba's tourism industry and its place among consumers. Combined with numbers for the first quarter of 2010 from the ATA and AHATA, all expressed a reserved optimism, as sustained occupancy numbers for the island were more than satisfactory, and surveys revealed Aruba is high on consumers' list of place to visit in the Caribbean.



AHATA CEO, Jim Hepple

Kevnote speaker was Dr. Marcella Daye, a Senior Lecturer in Tourism and Program Manager for the MBA International Tourism at Coventry University in the United Kingdom. She spoke on what is a hot topic for all marketing and tour operators, branding a product in the Caribbean, particularly in a fashion to differentiate from other similar products. She will be speaking again this coming Saturday morning at the University of Aruba Faculty of Hospitality Management and Tourism conference titled "Branding beyond Boundaries.'

Minister Oduber told del-"My vision is for Aruba to provide a sustainable tourism product by offering a balance between economic growth, social infrastructure and natural resources with the wellbeing of the population and our visitor's experience as the central focus" He stated this policy is based on the philosophy "Un Aruba dushi pa Biba ta un Aruba dushi pa Bishita," which, roughly translates into "An Aruba where it's wonderful to live, is also wonderful to visit".

Science/Tech.

Volcanic ash affects airplanes, weather, sunsets



Ash from the Mount Pinatubo eruption in the Philippines

NEW YORK – In 1989, all four engines of a Boeing 747 over Alaska conked out after it flew into a cloud of volcanic ash. The crew was able to restart them, but incidents like that dramatize why hundreds of flights every year are diverted around such gritty debris.

A volcano can blow immense amounts of material into the sky, making the weather cooler and producing spectacular red and orange sunsets. But Thursday's disruption of air travel underlines what airborne ash can mean for jetliners.

Such a huge effect on airline schedules is unusual, because ash plumes usually appear well away from the most crowded airspaces. This week's eruption in Iceland blew debris over Northern Europe, threatening most routes from the East Coast to Europe.

Volcanic ash can stay aloft for days and travel far. Of the more than 20 aircraft damaged by ash from the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, most were flying more than 600 miles from the volcano.

The tiny particles are invisible to the weather radar on airplanes and cannot be seen at night. So volcano monitoring is serious business in the United States.

"Once we detect an eruption, our first call goes to the FAA," said Tom Murray, director of the U.S. Geological Survey's Volcano Science Center, which oversees five volcano observatories nationwide. USGS scientists work closely with Federal Aviation Administration and the National Weather Service to track ash plumes.

The abrasive ash can sand-

blast a jet's windshield, block fuel nozzles, contaminate the oil system and electronics and plug the tubes that sense airspeed. But the most immediate danger is to the engines.

"Jet engines are like giant vacuum cleaners. If they're in a volcanic ash cloud, they're just sucking in all that ash and that damages the engines," Murray said.

The most immediate hazard occurs after ash melts or vaporizes in the extreme heat of the engine's combustion chamber, said Michael Fabian of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's campus in Prescott, Ariz.

The melted ash can then congeal on the blades of the engine's turbine "like spray paint," he said. The deposits can block the normal flow of air through the engine, causing engines to lose thrust or shut down.

What's more, he said, the deposits can coat the fuel system's temperature sensors, fooling them into thinking the engine is running cooler than it is. So the system pours in more fuel, raising the heat and damaging the turbine, which can also make the engine shut down.

Ash from the Mount Pinatubo eruption in the Philippines drifted more than 5,000 miles to the east coast of Africa. The eruption shot a column of ash and smoke more than 19 miles high, containing enough matter to qualify as perhaps the biggest eruption of the 20th century. The heavy fall of ash left about 100,000 people homeless and forced thousands more to flee.

The effects of that ash were even more widespread. Average world temperature

dropped by more than 1 degree over the following two years, an effect seen by many scientists as a counterbalance to global warming.

The weather effect was much bigger for the 1815 eruption of Tambora in Indonesia, often called the biggest eruption in recorded history. The following year was called "the year without summer," with sporadic snowfall and killing frosts in June through August in New England and Europe. Crops failed and soup kitchens opened to feed the hungry.

Ash from the eruption of the Krakatau (sometimes called the Krakatoa) volcano between Java and Sumatra in 1883 darkened the surrounding area for two days. It drifted around the Earth several times, making for brilliant sunsets that live on today, in sketches done in England by artist William Ashcroft.



Taj Mahal

Saturday, April 17, 2010

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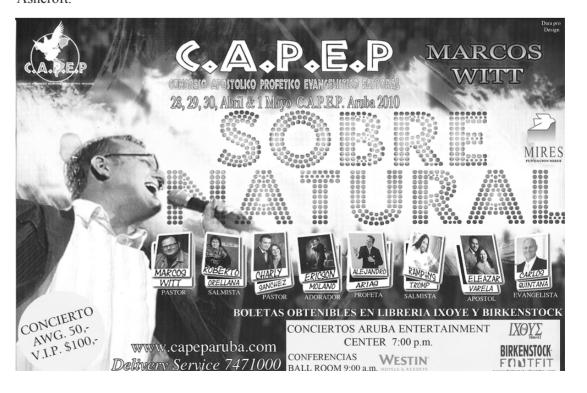


Obsessive Ink is the latest site to create a "virtual you" that can be modified with realistic tattoos. It lets you see what you'd look like with a tattoo, given you put in enough effort to make its virtual avatars look like your own face and body.

To help you out, the service can map an image of your face to a 3D head. The same goes for any tattoo art you have handy as a JPEG image. Though worth noting is that the conversion of the tat onto your 3D self costs \$1.99 per piece of art. The facial mapping is quite a bit of fun

though. You just upload a good, high-resolution shot of your face, map out where the nose, eyes and ears are, and it wraps your virtual flesh around a virtual head.

What is certainly the best part of the site is that when you're done, you can share your creation in a dozen different places, including Facebook. It watermarks the shot with the site's logo, but otherwise it's a clean copy of your artistry for all the world to see. In the future, the site could feasibly give you quick way to find a local tattoo parlor to get the real ink done.



HEALTH

Most Common Causes of Depression



Health experts' understanding of depression has come a long way in the last few decades. In many cases, depression doesn't have only one cause. It often results from a mix of biology, psychology, and stressful or traumatic events.

Reasons for depression include:

Biology. Researchers still have a lot to learn about exactly why people become depressed. But some experts say depression often results from an imbalance of certain chemicals in the brain. These chemicals are called neuro-transmitters. Antidepressants work by affecting the levels of these chemicals — bringing them back into balance.

There's also a genetic connection. If depression runs in your family, you have a higher chance of becoming depressed.

Having other general health conditions or diseases can increase your risk of depression. For instance, if you have a heart attack, you have a 65% risk of becoming de-

pressed afterwards. Conditions such as cancer, heart disease, thyroid problems, and many others increase your risk of becoming depressed.

Your gender makes a difference, too. Women are about twice as likely as men to become depressed. No one's sure why. But the hormonal changes that women go through at different times of their lives may be a factor.

Psychology. Studies show that people who have a pessimistic personality are more likely to become depressed. This doesn't mean that getting a "better attitude" will resolve your depression.

Stressful events. Many people become depressed during difficult times. Losing a family member or close friend, being diagnosed with a serious illness, going through a divorce, or any other traumatic event may trigger depression.

Medications and substances. Many prescription drugs can cause the symptoms of depression. Alcohol or substance abuse is common in depressed people. It often makes their condition worse.

Some people have a clear sense of why they become depressed. Others don't. The most important thing to remember is that depression is not your fault. It's not a flaw in your character. It's a disease that can affect anyone.

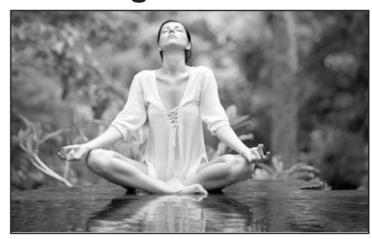
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Meditation may sharpen brain cognition



WINSTON-SALEM, N.C., -- Some look to coffee to sharpen their brain but U.S. researchers suggest a bit of meditation may help improve cognition.

Fadel Zeidan, a post-doctoral researcher at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and a former doctoral student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where the research was conducted, said the study found that meditation-trained participants showed a significant improvement in their critical cognitive skills after four days of 20-minute training.

ing.
"Simply stated, the profound improvements that we found after just four days of meditation training -- are really surprising," Zeidan said

in a statement. "It goes to show that the mind is, in fact, easily changeable and highly influenced, especially by meditation."

The experiment involved 63 student volunteers, randomly assigned to two groups. One received meditation training while the other group listened to a book being read aloud. Both groups performed equally at the beginning of the experiment. However, the study found only the group with the meditation training improved cognitive measures.

The research appeared in Consciousness and Cognition and is scheduled to be presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society's annual meeting in Montreal.

Symptoms of Depression

Some of the most recognized symptoms of depression include a profound feeling of sadness or loss of interest. You may be surprised to learn that people with depression often experience a broad range of other symptoms.

In general, if you've been experiencing some combination of the following emotional, physical, or associated symptoms of depression for more than two weeks, and they clearly interfere with your life, discuss your concerns with your doctor.

- * Sadness throughout the day, nearly every day
- * Loss of interest in or enjoyment of your favorite activities
 - * Feelings of worthlessness
 - * Excessive or inappropriate feelings of guilt
 - * Thoughts of death or suicide
 - * Trouble making decisions
 - * Fatigue or lack of energy
 - * Sleeping too much or too little
 - * Change in appetite or weight
 - * Trouble concentrating
 - * Feelings of restlessness or being slowed down

Ginkgo may up seizure risk in epileptics

BONN, Germany -- Researchers in Germany suggest the popular herbal remedy Ginkgo biloba be restricted because patients with epilepsy may face an increased risk of seizures.

Eckhard Leistner and Christel Drewke of the Institut fur Pharmazeutische Biologie in Bonn, Germany, said that many people use Ginkgo biloba to treat Alzheimer's disease, memory loss, depression, headache, irritable bladder, alcohol abuse, blood vessel blockages, lack of focus and dizziness.

The researchers reviewed Ginkgo studies and found 10 reports that indicated Ginkgo may increase the risk of seizures in those who have epilepsy or that the effectiveness of anti-seizure medications may be reduced. In addition, the researchers suggested Ginkgo may have harmful effects in those who don't have epilepsy, who ate raw or roasted Ginkgo seed or drinking Gingko tea.

"Contrary to our own previous assumption, we are now convinced, however, that G. biloba medications and other products can have a detrimental effect on a person's health condition," the researchers said in a statement.

"It is therefore important that the large number of G. biloba product users and their healthcare providers be made aware of these risks, in order to enable them to make informed decisions about the use of these preparations."

alm Beach Plaza











Palm Beach, Aruba

s a city northwest of <u>■Oranjestad</u>, capital of Aruba, and is home to the high rise hotels and a new shopping district. The renowned two-mile-long strip known as Palm Beach is home to glamorous highrise hotels and dotted by water sports concessions, piers, beach bars, restaurants and shops. Calm waters make this a comfortable haven for swimmers and snorkelers. A walk along the coast at dawn or sunset is perfect for exercise and quiet reflection.

Multiple time-share ownership and full-time ownership condos have been or are being built in the area as well.







1st Floor

101	Mama's Mexico	120	Nautica
102	Bianco e Bianco / Bianco e Bianco Piú	121	Bisou Bisou Pink
103	Shiva's Gold & Gems	122	San Marina
104	Shiva's Gold & Gems	123	Company 81
105	Underground	124	Palm Beach Plaza
106	Flow	125	Palm Beach Plaza
107	Jewels in Paradise	126	Shoebox & La Chinata
108	Muaa	127	Palm Beach Plaza
109	Barrel Bay Mini Market	128	Benetton
110	Jeff de Bruges Chocolate Boutique	129	Onda de Mar
111	Skechers	129A	Touche
112	Palm Beach Plaza	130	Giordano
113	Birkenstock & Dance	130A	The Divi Store
113A	Post Aruba N.V.	131	Penha
114	Sun Specs Sunglass Boutique	152	Tio's Lounge
114A	Totto	153	Mimo's Ice Cream Parlor
115	Majesty Jewelers	154	Aruba Aloe
116	Havana Cigar & Spirit Bar	155	Tango Tours
117	Trinity House of Coffee		

201	Kaffas Bar & Restaurant	1	Aruba Mega Plex cinema 1
202	Hoshi Sushi Bar & Restaurant	1	
203	Basinger	2	Aruba Mega Plex cinema 2
204	Palm Beach Plaza	1	
205	Technoland	3	Aruba Mega Plex cinema 3
206	Art Fusion		
207	Pixies Bijouterie	4	Aruba Mega Plex cinema 4
209	Aruba Mega Plex		
212	Candyland Candy Store	5	Aruba Mega Plex cinema 5
214	Panache		
215	Panache	6	Aruba Mega Plex cinema 6
216	My Time		
217	Green Door Spa & Beauty Salon	7	Aruba Mega Plex cinema 7
218	Kokomos Tropical Bar & Restaurant		
219	Kokomos Tropical Bar & Restaurant	8	Aruba Mega Plex cinema 8
220	Casa Tua Mediterannee Bar & Restaurant		

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Fun City 301

302 Churromania

303 Beef'es

304 Chubby Panda

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306 Bon Chicken

Aladdin Shoarma Express

308 American Burger

309 Planet Gelato

310 Palm Beach Dream Bowl



More than just shopping...

Get ready to experience an adrenaline rush like no other Kite Surfing is an absolute thrill and the latest in extreme sports...



Kite surfing or kiteboarding is a surface water sport that uses the wind to pull a rider through the water on a small surfboard or a kiteboard (similar to a wakeboard). Generally kiteboarding refers to a style of riding known as freestyle or wake-style, whereas kitesurfing is more "wave-riding" oriented. These two styles usually require different boards and specific performance kites.

A kitesurfer or kiteboarder uses a board with or without foot-straps or bindings, combined with the power of a large controllable kite to propel the rider and the board across the water. In 2006, the number of kitesurfers has been estimated at around

150,000 to 210,000, with 114,465 inflatable kites sold that same year.

The sport is becoming safer due to innovations in kite design, safety release systems, and instructions. Riding styles have evolved to suit riders and conditions, such as wakestyle, waveriding, freestyle, freeride, jumping, and cruising.

Kitesurfing started on the island in 1998. Armando Wester, a professional windsurfer and certified instructor, and his buddies were the first ones to introduce Kitesurfing to the island of Aruba.

Since then, they have gotten more than 5,000 visitors and locals hooked on this new adrenaline rush sport.

Their years of experience, the trade winds on the island, the beautiful Caribbean Sea and the latest equipment make it an ideal and safe place for anyone to learn to kite. Kitesurfing is a hybrid of wakeboarding, hand-gliding and windsurfing for a radical new approach of kite power.

Anyone between the ages of 8 and 77 can enjoy this sport. So don't hesitate to call Armando or visit him at the Fisherman's huts, just north of the Aruba Marriott Resort, and see for yourself what an exhilarating rush this sport really is.

Lessons start daily at 8:30 a.m. or 4 p.m.

Dr. Richard Narkewicz and wife Carol named Distinguished Visitors of Aruba

Favorite Casino: Alhambra Casino

Recently, at the Divi All Inclusive Beach Resort, Dr. Richard and Mrs. Carol Narkewicz from Florida, were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba for their 12 consecutive visits to the island. They first visited our island in 1987 and have been here every year since.

According to Mr. and Mrs. Narkewicz, what they like more of Aruba is the culinary variety, the good accommodation at Divi All Inclusive Resort, The Alhambra Casino, our nice weather and, last but not least, our friendly people.

Aruba Tourism Authority liaison Castro Perez thanked the Narkewiczs for their loy-



alty towards our island and presented them with a certificate as a testimony of our gratitude. Also present were two Divi All Inclusive Resort



Loyal Aruba Beach Club visitors honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba



Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) honored the couple Dorothy Maturi and William Flynn of the U.S.A. as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. They have been visiting Aruba for 14 consecutive years. Dorothy and William express they like Aruba for the nice weather, friendly people, excellent restaurants and, as they say, the crystal clear water. They also have made many friends among other guests staying at the resort for all these years. They meet each year in the same week on "Paradise" Aruba. ATA liaison Amara Boekhoudt, in name of the government and the people of Aruba, thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination during all these years and presented them with a hand-some certificate. Also present at the occasion was Aruba Beach Club associate Moraima Giel.



TOONS

PICKLES









CALVIN and HOBBES

HOBBES, I DID IT! I ATE ENOUGH BOXES OF CEREAL TO GET ALL THE PROOF OF PURCHASE SEALS I NEED!

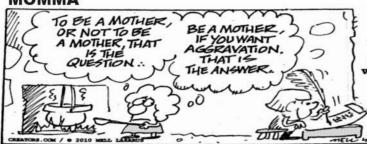








MOMMA



Shakespeare's mother, when she realized her dopey son wanted only to be a writer, while Mrs. Bacon's son planned to become Lord Chancellor.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Decree December personage
- A Marx brother's instrument
- 14. Out of work
- 15. Strong fishing net
- 16. Medley 17. Christmas
- carol 18. Nautically, clear of the
- bottom 19. Puerto
- 20. Nodding
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- French psychologist
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- 47. Gastro-
- nomes
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- 52. Estrange 56. T-bones, e.g.
- 60. Needy
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- 66. Part

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- 69. Household
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- I cannot tell

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- 68. Stone slab
- members

DOWN

- Superstar Toward shelter
- raising TV
- show 5. One who
- Pop or op
- 7. Loki's son
- Derides
- Letter
- system
- 10. Repugnance
- -: 2 wds.
- 12. Costa

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- 13. Backyard pleasure
- Actress
- Angeli Old oath
- 25. Ledger entry 27. Stands
- 28. Synthetic fiber
- Commerce
- Italian poet Actress
- Janet .
- Good golf score
- Get ready for the day
- 37. Retains Cranes'

relatives

- 41. Powerful, as a car: 2 wds. Muffin type
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- particles
- Miss Adams 55. Super:
- hyph. 58. Mend, as
- bones
- Establishes Under the weather

14 17 18 19 20 28 27 32 133 35 36 39 42 45 52 53 60 64 65 66 67 68

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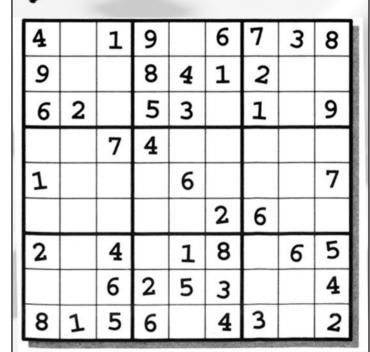
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Sudoku



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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance



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SEC accuses Goldman Sachs of civil fraud

WASHINGTON (AP) – The government has accused Goldman Sachs & Co. of defrauding investors by failing to disclose conflicts of interest in mortgage investments it sold as the housing market was collapsing.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said in a civil complaint yesteriday that Goldman failed to disclose that one of its clients helped create — and then bet against — subprime mortgage securities that Goldman sold to other investors.

The SEC said the fraud, a blow to the reputation of Wall Street's most powerful firm, was orchestrated in 2007 by a Goldman vice president then in his late 20's. The employee, Fabrice Tourre, has since been promoted to executive director of Goldman Sachs International in London.

Tourre, the SEC said, boasted to a friend that he was able to put such deals together as the mortgage market was unraveling in early 2007. He described himself as "the fabulous Fab standing in the middle of all these complex, highly leveraged, exotic trades he created without necessarily understanding all of the implications of those monstrosities!!!"

Two European banks that bought the securities lost nearly \$1 billion, the SEC said. The agency is seeking to recoup profits reaped on the deal.

Goldman Sachs denied the allegations. In a statement, it called the SEC's charges "completely unfounded in law and fact" and said it will contest

Goldman, founded more than 140 years ago, built a reputation as a trusted adviser to its investment banking clients. In recent years, it shifted toward taking more risks with its clients' money and its own. Goldman's trading allowed the firm to weather the financial crisis better than most other big banks.

How placing your customers first creates a firestorm OF big profits and new usiness!

by Ken Varga



Hi, I am Ken Varga. I want to share with you some of the ideas, strategies, and principles that allowed me to build 35 businesses during my career.

By earnestly applying the ideas, you will learn how you too can build your business to success, while living an unhurried life, filled with family, friends, fun and a relaxed atti-

In an earlier issue, I started with a method to increase the number of customers you can create with a referral system. I ended the tip with the following statement. It's all about them. not about you.

I say that because I want to introduce you to the enormous force and power you will harness with that rule. You will realize how much more effective everything you do in your business will be when you start focusing all your thoughts and actions on what's going to be in the best interest of your customer; not yourself or your company. You might already be doing that to some extent, and if you are, I commend you.

These marketing tips are designed to get you to a higher level, multiplying many times over the effectiveness, the profitability, and the impact of everything you do, the moment you shift your focus and attention from yourself and your business to the needs and desires of your customers.

The referral system I used in my Nurses business, created, on average, 10 new customers per

Referral systems are surprisingly easy to set up and require very little effort or time. They represent the most immediate source of increased customers you have available in your business.

I want you to think of three things over this next week.

1. Think of your customers as dear and valued friends. Treat them with the respect and importance that you would have for any other friend

2. Revere the value, benefit, and impact of what you do or what you sell, and how it has an affect on their lives.

3. Always hold yourself, your employees, and your business to the highest level of performance in behalf of your customers' best interest.

You must understand that if you think about the interest, needs, and well being of your customers on a higher and more continuous level than any other business in their lives, you are going to be at the top of their awareness.

So when they are with other people, when they are socializing, playing golf, or having dinner with friends, that if the opportunity presents itself, if someone ever mentions or discusses any area where you can help them, your customers are automatically going to introduce your business to them.

And your customer can't help it. Your business is constantly in their mind. How can you accomplish this?

If your customer is into exercise, send them articles. books, or videos on exercise.

If they're interested in sports, send them anything you can find that is useful and valuable related to sports.

Think of other items that your customers are interested in and provide them with information that can help them.

The key to this whole process is not just going through the motions. It's about being connected to your customer and sending them information that has genuine value constantly.

Most business owners don't realize that at the point of purchase, most customers are really excited and motivated.

At this point they really want to share this wonderful experience with friends and relatives.

I know a photographer who after the photo session is completed, he asks the customers for referrals of other people they know who might also be interested and benefit by having a photo session for family pictures. The incentives could be a lot of things, but one thing he gives them is additional prints.

He also will give the people they refer a substantial price advantage he does not offer to outside customers.

In this example, a great value is given to the referred customer by the referring customer and, trust me, it is genuinely appreciated by all the parties concerned. It's a win-win situation

The important point is that your business can utilize referral systems to immediately increase the number of customers and profit you make every day for the rest of your business life. It's so simple and easy and it costs you nothing more than a shift in your thinking and the words you say.

To your success,

Ken Varga

Volcano could build into major business problem

LONDON, England (AP) -The eruption of a volcano in the tiny, isolated island nation of Iceland is threatening to turn into a major headache for businesses across Europe and around the world as a spreading ash cloud closes more European airports.

Airlines are already countng the cost of grounded planes, and there are growing fears about the transportation of food supplies and other essential goods should the flight disruptions persist for several days — or longer.

But there were also some early winners from the unprecedented situation, with rail, bus and ferry tour operators all quick to lay on extra services for stranded business and leisure travelers as hotel rooms filled up.

Airline shares took a hit as the Geneva-based International Air Transport Association estimated that the disruption is costing the industry some \$200 million a day in revenues. IATA added its forecast was "conservative" and costs will mount further as carriers reroute aircraft and care for stranded passengers.

Eurocontrol, the European air traffic agency, said some 17,000 flights were canceled yesterday, more than half the 28,000 that usually operate. Delays and cancelations will toon Saturday as the ash cloud from the eruption of the volcano beneath Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull glacier moves south and east. The flight ban was imposed because of concerns about pilot visibility and jet engine failure from the ash.

YESTERDAY'S

Crossword Answer SHIP SCAR ASCOT L O R E N S T I N T



A must see while on Aruba

Bird Sanctuary



The Bubali Bird Ponds of Aruba have become home to more than 80 species of migratory birds.

Migratory birds, looking for lush vegetation in which to nest, find an oasis within the ponds, known as Bubali Bird Sanctuary. The nearby water treatment facility empties into two inter-connected man-made lakes, known as the large and small Bubali Bird Ponds.

The area has become a resting and breeding area for the more than 80 species of migratory birds.

Birds that inhabit the sanc-

tuary include herons, egrets, gulls, skimmers, coots, cormorants, numerous species of ducks and more.

An observation tower has been erected to allow bird-watchers to get a true birds' eye view.

The Bird Sanctuary (also known as Bubali Plas) is a hidden treasure located at walking distance from both the high rise resorts and low rise resorts

The entrance is located more towards where landmark The Old Windmill is located. Entrance is free.



Cozy, comfy and incredibly affordable, The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

Two local TV personalities were caught enjoying lunch at The Queen's. They declared, after several visits, they judged the food to be "excellent," and particularly recommended Grandma's secret recipe. We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh

The Queen's outdoor



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deli-

ciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the water at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa was in the mood to prepare. While testing out their offerings, we noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

Domingo back to work after cancer surgery



Photo shows Placido Domingo performing sound check in Mexico City.

MILAN, Italy (AP) – In his first performance since cancer surgery, Placido Domingo portrayed Verdi's hero "Simon Boccanegra," whch opened last night at Milan's famed La Scala opera house.

His 131st role was something to sing about.

The 69-year-old Spanish tenor underwent colon cancer surgery just six weeks ago. He acknowledges he put off getting a routine colonoscopy for years — thinking he would do it after the La Scala run — and finally succumbed to severe pain after concerts in Japan in February, which he said he managed to get through.

Doctors in New York removed the cancerous tissue on March 2, and Domingo counts himself lucky because they got it early enough.

"My biggest triumph ever is the one over illness," Domingo said earlier this week, ac-



knowledging fear that his career could have been over.

Domingo sang a rare baritone role for "Simon Boccanegra," but said he remains a tenor

"I am a singer who has sung for many years, who has experience, and who represents Simon as I feel him. I don't pretend to be a baritone. I pretend to sing, and to create characters within my vocal capacity," Domingo says.

The production, conducted by Daniel Barenboim with stage direction by Federico Tiezzi, premiered in October in Berlin Staatsoper, where Barenboim has a permanent podium. It has been resized for the bigger La Scala theater, and Tiezzi said he made the backdrops more spare.

The Berlin debut was a huge success, especially for Domingo.

"But Verdi at La Scala is Verdi at La Scala, and the joy of returning to Milan is double because of the circumstances," Domingo said.

Domingo will sing six performances of "Simon Boccanegra" at La Scala, before taking it to London's Royal Opera in June and Madrid's Teatro Real in July.

And his schedule doesn't stop there. In September, he will sing the role of the poet Pablo Neruda in the world premiere of "Il Postino" in Los Angeles, and has engagements in Vienna in December.



On to Mars: Obama declares, 'I expect to see it'

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — President Barack Obama boldly predicted Thursday his new plans for space exploration would lead American astronauts on historic, almost fantastic journeys to an asteroid and then to Mars — and in his lifetime — relying on rockets and propulsion still to be imagined and built.

"I expect to be around to see it," he said of pioneering U.S. trips starting with a landing on an asteroid — a colossal feat in itself — before the long-dreamed-of expedition to Mars. He spoke near the historic Kennedy Space Center launch pads that sent the first men to the moon, a blunt rejoinder to critics, including several former astronauts, who contend his planned changes will instead deal a staggering blow to the nation's manned space program.

"We want to leap into the future," not continue on the same path as before, Obama said as he sought to reassure NASA workers that America's space adventures would soar on despite the impending termination of space shuttle flights.

His prediction was reminiscent of President John F. Kennedy's declaration in 1961, "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth." That goal was fulfilled in 1969.

Obama did not predict a Mars landing soon. But he said that by 2025, the nation would have a new spacecraft "designed for long journeys to allow us to begin the first-ever crewed missions beyond the moon into deep space."

"We'll start by sending astronauts to an asteroid for the first time in history," he said. "By the mid-2030s, I believe we can send humans to orbit Mars and return them safely to Earth. And a landing on Mars will follow. And I expect to be around to see it."

The biggest criticisms of Obama's plans have been that they have lacked details and goals. Thursday's speech was an attempt to answer, especially since an asteroid is the next step away from Earth's reach.

Asteroids zip by Earth fairly often

and have occasionally smacked the planet with disastrous results. For example, asteroids have been blamed for the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Landing on an asteroid would give scientists a better idea of how to handle a future killer asteroid that could wipe out much of life on Earth. Also, it would be a feat sure to win great attention — and



there is far less gravity than the moon, meaning it would be easier and cheaper to leave.

"I think he said all the right things" in declaring a commitment to space exploration, said George Washington University space scholar John Logsdon, who has served on several NASA advisory boards. "I don't know what more you could have asked for."





Ginn Jr. traded by Dolphins to 49ers



MIAMI - (AP)--The fastest draft bust in Miami Dolphins' history is bound for San Francisco.

Receiver-returner Ted Ginn Jr. was traded Friday to the 49ers for a lower-round draft pick. The Dolphins had him on the block even before they acquired Pro Bowl receiver Brandon Marshall on Wednesday from the Denver Broncos

Dolphins fans began boo-

NHL Standings

|W|L|Pts|

EASTERN CONF. Atlantic

Atlantio	V V		լւ ເວ
y-New Jersey	48	27	103
x-Pittsburgh	47	28	101
x-Philadelphia	41	35	88
NY Rangers	38	33	87
NY Islanders	34	37	79
Northeast			
y-Buffalo	45	27	100
x-Ottawa	44	32	94
x-Boston	39	30	91
x-Montreal	39	33	88
Toronto	30	38	74
Southeast			
z-Washington	54	15	121
Atlanta	35	34	83
Carolina	35	37	80
Tampa Bay	34	36	80
Florida	32	37	77
WESTERN CONF.			
Central	W	L	Pts
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y-Chicago x-Detroit	52 44	22 24	112 102
y-Chicago	52	22 24 29	112 102 100
y-Chicago x-Detroit	52 44 47 40	22 24 29 32	112 102 100 90
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x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ; z-Conf.Champ

ing Ginn the day he was drafted and never stopped. Taken with the ninth overall pick in 2007, he made only five touchdown catches in three seasons while averaging 13.0 yards per reception.

Ginn was more successful on special teams, scoring on kickoff returns of 100 and 101 yards in the same quarter of a game against the New York Jets last season. He became the first player with two kickoff returns of at least 100 yards in the same game.

The Dolphins still have receivers Brian Hartline, Davone Bess and Greg Camarillo as complements to Marshall. In San Francisco, Ginn will be paired with Michael Crabtree.

The 49ers hope Ginn can further comment.

fulfill the potential he showed at Ohio State, where he tied an NCAA record with eight touchdown returns.

When Miami's selection of Ginn was announced at a team draft party, fans jeered — they wanted Brady Quinn. The decision was frequently mocked by detractors of coach Cam Cameron, who lasted only one season.

Ginn drew criticism for running poor routes and shying away from contact. Last season he lost his job as a starting receiver and totaled only 38 receptions for 454 yards and one score.

Now under the Bill Parcells regime, the Dolphins announced the trade in a onesentence release and had no

Nadal, Djokovic reach semis at **Monte Carlo Masters**



MONACO (AP)—Rafael Nadal moved into the semifinals of the Monte Carlo Masters with a 6-4, 6-2 victory yesterday over Juan Carlos Ferrero, extending his winning streak in the event to 30 matches.

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic of Serbia advanced with a 6-2, 6-3 win over David Nalbandian.

Second-seeded Nadal dropped only two games in his previous two matches, but was tested by the ninthseeded Ferrero, a two-time Monte Carlo Masters winner.

"To be in the semifinals is a very good start to the clay season," said Nadal, who is still chasing his first title of the year. "I had good control of the ball, when I attacked with the forehand I did well. My serve was much better today.'

Ferrero saved two match points before Nadal closed out the contest with a strong serve that Ferrero could only return into the net.

"I think I had the chance to win some more games, but I didn't," Ferrero said. "(Nadal's) always there, he's always where he has to be. He plays better in the important moments.'

Nadal next meets David Ferrer in another all-Spanish match. Ferrer defeated Philipp Kohlschreiber 7-5, 7-6 (1).

Nadal stopped Ferrer at the recent Sony Ericsson Open in straight sets. Nadal leads Ferrer 9-3 overall.

The 11th-seeded Ferrer served for the match at 5-4, but Kohlschreiber broke back. Ferrer dominated the tiebreaker and won on his first match point when Kohlschreiber's backhand was out.

Djokovic will play Fernando Verdasco, who defeated Albert Montanes 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-0.

Verdasco led 5-1 in the second set before Montanes rallied to win the set. Verdasco regained his composure and routed his opponent in the third.



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DEATH AT A FUNERAL (Comedy): A day in the life of an American family who come together to put a beloved husband and father to rest. As mourners gather at the family home, shocking revelations, festering resentments, ugly threats, blackmail and a misdirected corpse unleash lethal mayhem.

On the road to 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa

Brazilians want young striker Neymar in World Cup

SAO PAULO (AP)—Forget about Ronaldinho. Brazilians are hoping to see young sensation Neymar playing in the World Cup.

Neymar scored five times in Santos' 8-1 thrashing of Guarani in the round of 16 of the Brazilian Cup last

Wednesday. Another impressive performance by the 18-year-old striker has increased calls for his place on the national team in South Africa.

Until recently, two-time FIFA player of the year Ronaldinho was the one most Brazilians wanted to see return to the national team.

The AC Milan playmaker had been getting a push from Brazilian fans and media who wanted coach Dunga to summon him ahead of the World Cup, but the enthusiasm behind his name has steadily lost momentum after each impressive outing by Neymar and his Santos teammates, including Robinho, who scored twice on Wednesday and has virtually secured a World Cup spot.

But not even Robinho is getting much attention in Brazil these days. Everybody is talking about Neymar.

Brazilian great Pele has said he would take the striker to the World Cup, and so did former national team stars Romario and Zico. Many current players are also behind Neymar, and the Brazil-



ian media is increasingly saying that Dunga should take him to South Africa.

"After each minute and each second that goes by, I see myself wearing the Selecao jersey," Neymar said. "I've been trying to play well and score goals. Hopefully Dunga is watching. The dream is not over."

Neymar has played for Brazil Under-16s and Under-17s but never been summoned to the senior national

Advocaat says he will be next Russia coach

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Dick Advocaat said Friday he is finalizing a deal to make him coach of Russia's national football team.

Advocaat was speaking a day after unexpectedly quitting as Belgium coach less than five months before the start of its 2012 European Championship qualifying campaign.

"I will become Russia's coach like Guus Hiddink before me, but I have not signed yet," the Dutchman said.

Hiddink guided Russia to the semifinals of Euro 2008 but failed to qualify for this year's World Cup. He begins coaching Turkey in August.

Advocaat took the Netherlands to the 1994 World Cup quarterfinals and the Euro 2004 semis. He coached Zenit St. Petersburg to a Russian league title and the

UEFA Cup during a threeyear stint before being fired last year.

Advocaat said he understood the disappointment in Belgium, but rejected criticism from Belgian media that he was moving to get rich.

"If I based my decisions on money, I would never have become Belgium coach," he said. "The most important reason is moving to a higher level of sport. Russia plays at a higher level than Belgium and the chance of reaching the European Championship is better. That is the level I'm used to working at."

He said he would not be able to combine his Russia job with coaching Dutch league team AZ Alkmaar, which he has managed since last December.

team, and he is running out of time to make the final squad for the World Cup.

Dunga has praised the youngster, but he is more likely to stick with players who have been with him since he took over the national team after the 2006 World Cup. Robinho, Adriano, Nilmar and Luis Fabiano have been Dunga's regulars so far on attack, and the coach has hinted there will be no more surprises to his squad.

"Every player wants to be in the national team," Neymar said. "It's everybody's dream and I'm glad to have so many people wanting me to be in the national team. I'll keep playing hard, hopefully there's a spot left for me."

The speedy and skillful striker, called by many the new Robinho, has caught the attention of several European clubs. Chelsea reportedly is after him, and Santos president Luis Alvaro de Oliveira Ribeiro told local media on Wednesday that he was approached by Real Madrid officials seeking to negotiate the player's transfer.

the player's transfer.
"NeyMessi," read a headline in the Brazilian sports
daily Lance on Thursday. The
Spanish newspaper Marca
had already called Neymar
the "Brazilian Messi."

Santos' president said he was not willing to sell the player in the near future, and Neymar said he was not thinking about that either.

"I don't think it's time yet," Neymar said. "I'm focused only on Santos."

With the help of Neymar and Robinho, the club made famous by Pele in the 1960s is the hottest team in Brazilian soccer.

Neymar is the team's leading scorer this season with 19.



130,000 tickets sold in 36 hours of final phase

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—FIFA announced Friday that 130,000 World Cup tickets were sold in the first 36 hours of the final phase and 29 of the 64 matches are now sold out, but a number of less popular matchups still have unsold tickets in all four pricing categories.

FIFA ticketing subcommittee chairman Horst Schmidt said there were no more seats available for the final, both semifinals and the opening game between host South Africa and Mexico at Johannesburg's Soccer City stadium on June 11.

All matches in the coastal cities of Cape Town and Durban are also sold out.

"We are very pleased with the interest and with the latest figures," Schmidt said. FIFA said that as of Fri-

FIFA said that as of Friday, the second day of the final phase, tickets were still available for one quarterfinal and the third-place playoff, as well as a selection of last 16 and group games.

But some less popular matches, like South Korea

versus Greece at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth and Paraguay versus New Zealand in the north-

four categories of seats.

Ten matches still have unsold tickets in all four ticket categories, including the lowest priced one for locals.

ern city of Polokwane, are yet

to sell out tickets in any of the

Another eight games have only sold out the cheapest tickets.

FIFA did not say how many tickets had been sold in each category, only that some were "available", some had "few tickets" and some were "unavailable".

Local organizers have said they will ensure that all World Cup games are full to avoid shots of empty seats on international broadcasts.

As a result, they may be forced to give away free tickets to schools or charities which could have an impact on the economic benefit of the World Cup for the local committee, which is counting for much of its revenue from ticket sales.

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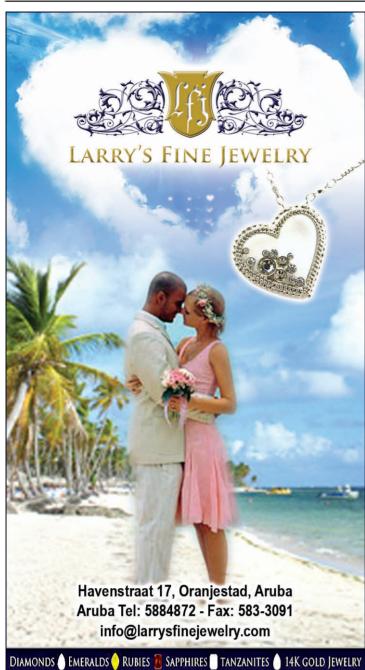




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NBA projecting higher salary cap than expected

NEW YORK – The NBA is projecting the salary cap to be higher than it expected, good news for teams preparing for this summer's free agency period.

NBA commissioner David Stern said on Friday that the league is projecting the cap to come in at about \$56.1 million. The actual number won't be determined until early July, before teams can begin officially signing players.

Though that figure would still be lower than this season's \$57.7 million cap, it's far better than estimates from last summer, when the league sent a memo to teams warning them of a potential sharp drop to between \$50.4 million to \$53.6 million.

A cap in the \$56 million range is a huge break for a team like the New York Knicks — whose president Donnie Walsh was in the room to hear Stern's news conference following the league's board of governors

meetings.

That would mean the Knicks could now have more than \$34 million in cap space, enough to give two maximum salary contracts to players from the group of LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. Those All-Stars will be eligible for first-year salaries of about \$16.5 million if they opt for free agency this summer.

Stern said at the All-Star break in February that the league was projecting losses of about \$400 million this season, and he predicted Friday they would still be close to that. But he credited teams for their creative thinking in selling tickets and sponsorships in a tough economy, and gate revenue is a portion of the "basketball-related income" formula that helps determine the cap.

The cap still could fall below Stern's projection, depending on revenues during the playoffs.

Connemara leads 12-horse field for Lexington

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Connemara will try to earn his way into the Kentucky Derby in the \$300,000 Lexington Stakes on Saturday at Keeneland.

The 3-year-old colt trained by Todd Pletcher will start from the No. 10 post in the 12-horse field. The Lexington is a final major prep for the May 1 Derby. Connemara will be ridden by Russell Baze.

Connemara won the El Camino Real Derby in February and finished third in the Lane's End Stakes at Turfway Park last month. He currently has \$138,500 in graded stakes earnings and would easily move into the top 20 in graded earnings by taking home the \$180,000 winner's share Saturday.

Pletcher, who has won the Lexington in each of the last two years, also saddles Exhi in the Lexington.



LeBron, Cavs ready for title run

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James didn't smile or crack any jokes. This wasn't the time.

As his teammates finished shooting free throws after practice on Thursday night, Cleveland's superstar stood against a wall and fixed his eyes on an imaginary target moving closer by the minute.

The postseason has arrived, and with it another chance at an NBA championship.

"I am serious," James said about his sober demeanor. "This is the playoffs."

James and the Cavaliers, who have spent nearly one year trying to get over last season's disappointing loss to Orlando in the Eastern Conference finals, will begin their run toward a title on Saturday when they host the Chicago Bulls, a team that beat them twice during the regular season and most recently on April 8.

The Bulls, who in recent days have been dealing with ugly reports of an altercation between coach Vinny Del Negro and executive vice president of basketball operations John Paxson, are huge underdogs against the Cavs—the league's best team all season.

But despite the perceived mismatch and Chicago's long odds, Bulls forward Joakim Noah said he and his teammates plan "to try to shock the world" and upset the Cavs.

James has other plans.

"We're ready for the challenge," James said. "I think Noah's a really good player. He's a really good talent. But, you know, he asked for us a couple week ago and he got us. So we're ready. It's a different monster they're going to be playing against today."

For the first time since Feb. 25, the Cavs will take the floor with Shaquille O'Neal at center.

After missing 23 games following surgery to repair a torn right thumb ligament, O'Neal has come back rested and ready to fulfill his goal of winning a championship with James. The 7-foot-1 center has returned in incredible shape, saying he spent the down time "eating right, swimming, working out, doing what I do. It's all about the mission."

The "mission" is to deliver a championship to Cleveland, a city that hasn't had a pro sports title since 1964 and has rarely been better positioned to have one of its teams win it all.

On the brink of his 204th playoff game, O'Neal said he's prepared to help the Cavs go as far as possible.

"It's a chance for me to do something special, personalwise, city-wise, LeBron-wise and everybody wise," he said. "We have a pretty good shot at it. If we go out and do what we're supposed to do, then we'll be fine."

O'Neal said he will not be limited by his injury and that his thumb will be protected by a "fake thingy, jammy, thingy." He's expecting the Bulls' best shot, but feels the Cavaliers should be able to handle it.

"We got everybody healthy," he said. "We know what we have to do and it's going to be a hard battle. We know that every team we play against is going to be playing way above their heads."

James has never gone into the playoffs with a post player—or any teammate like O'Neal, who gives the Cavs a unique weapon and vital playoff experience.

"He's been there," James said. "Shaq has definitely played at the highest level. He's played with some of the greats. To have one of the greats on our team, on our side, this time around, it adds a dimension to our team that we haven't had in the past. It's going to help us a lot."

James, who will likely add a second straight MVP award to his resume, sat out Cleveland's final four regular-season games to rest up for the playoffs. He doesn't anticipate any rust in Game 1, and said the Cavs can't worry about working through any kinks early in the series.